

Commission Notes



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Education to be focus of Arts & Humanities month

Americans for the Arts (AFTA) launched a nationwide arts education awareness campaign last year. That campaign will be the cornerstone of awareness activities planned for October which is National Arts and Humanities Month.



"During this month, I encourage all citizens to participate in activities that celebrate our rich artistic and intellectual heritage, and to learn more about the artists and scholars whose work continues to enrich our society, our Nation, and the world," the President stated in his letter.

The awareness campaign actually began earlier this month when President George W. Bush issued a letter of support for arts education.

For more information on Arts and Humanities Month and activities for your own community, visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org or link from www.IN.gov/arts

Arts Trust plate among Indiana's top sellers

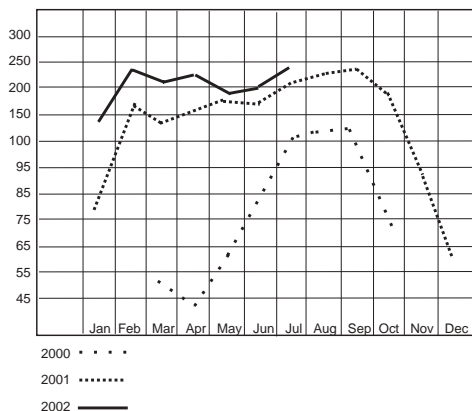
According to officials with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), the Indiana Arts Trust license plate continues to be among the top 15 best selling of the state's 40-plus special-issue license plates.

As of July 31, more than 1,546 Arts Trust plates had been purchased this year, only 465 fewer than the total of all Arts Trust plates sold in 2001. A total of 240 plates were purchased in July alone, the highest single month sales since the plate was introduced in March 2000.

"There is strong statewide interest in the Arts Trust plate with plate sales reported in 90 of Indiana's 92 counties," said Dorothy L. Ilgen, executive director of the Indiana Arts Commission. "In many counties, 2002 purchases already exceed total purchases made last year."

According to BMV officials, the Arts Trust license plate was the 13th top selling plate during the first six months of this year. And while many special

Arts Trust License Plate Sales



issue plates have seen a leveling off in their 2002 sales, the Arts Trust plate continues to show sales growth.

"The Arts Trust plate is a great way for Hoosiers to not only show their support for the arts, but invest in secured arts funding for future generations.

Since the introduction of the Arts Trust plate, cumulative purchases total 6,220 plates, generating an estimated \$155,500 for the Indiana Arts Commission Cultural Trust Fund.

Deadline extended

Hoosiers will have additional time to make nominations for the 2003 Indiana Governor's Arts Awards.

The Indiana Arts Commission decided at its September 20 quarterly meeting to extend the deadline for nominations by two weeks. The new deadline is **October 18**.

Commissioners agreed to provide additional time for nominations after learning that some rural areas of the state had only recently received supplies of nomination forms.

Forms are available from the IAC by calling 317-232-1273 or may be printed from the IAC Web site: www.IN.gov/arts

Former Commissioner Esther Fifield had life-long passion for service

The IAC regrets to report the recent passing of former Commissioner Esther Fifield.

Mrs. Fifield, a resident of Crown Point, was appointed to the Indiana Arts Commission in 1973. She served on the Commission through 1979 when the state Republican leadership asked her to complete her husband's unexpired term in the Indiana House or Representatives.

In addition to her years of service to the IAC, Mrs. Fifield was active in a variety of community activities including a campaign to save and preserve the historic Old Lake County Courthouse.

Three Indiana arts organizations among recipients of NEA Challenge America grants

Three Indiana arts organizations are among a total of 154 recipients of the latest round of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The latest round of grants, announced Sept. 17, total \$1,415,000 and are part of the NEA's Challenge America: Community Arts Development Program.

Projects funded through this program must enhance and integrate the arts more fully into communities, and represent partnerships between a nonprofit arts organization and other community organizations.

The grants focus on development of cultural tourism and cultural districts, development of community cultural plans, or civic design and restoration of historic structures.

In Indiana, Challenge America grant recipients included:

The Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, Evansville, received \$10,000 to support a feasibility study on converting a library building into a cultural arts center. If the study conclusion is positive, the Arts Council will commission architectural designs.

"Some of the things this project could include would be a new home for the Arts Council, gallery space for local artists, a fine arts teaching space for Indiana's first charter high school, a small theatre, and instructional space for community outreach arts programs," explained Kathy Solecki, executive director of the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana.

"We currently have local artists willing to teach, but no space for

them to teach in," Solecki said. "A community arts center such as this could provide programming for both senior citizens and disadvantaged youth."

A \$10,000 grant was awarded to **Cathedral Arts, Inc.** of Indianapolis to support the 6th Quadrennial Violin Competition. This 17-day event attracts violinists from 20 countries as participants and audiences of 50,000 people, both contributing significantly to local cultural tourism.

The Arts Council of Indianapolis, also received a \$10,000 grants to support a coordinated public relations and promotional effort for activities taking place in cultural districts throughout Indianapolis. These activities are part of a multi-year campaign to increase awareness of cultural tourism and cultural opportunities in the city.

"These Challenge America grants support communities nationwide in their efforts to cultivate and celebrate their artistic heritage and to provide greater access to the arts for residents and visitors alike," said Eileen B. Mason, senior deputy chair of the NEA.

The NEA received more than 250 applications for this round of grants, with 132 of those representing first-time NEA applicants.

What's on
your bumper?



www.in.gov/iac/

City of West Lafayette votes funding for arts

The arts in Tippecanoe County won a victory this month when West Lafayette Mayor Sonya Margerum recommended to the city council that \$20,000 be approved for public arts funding in the city's 2003 budget. Approved by the council, the funds will be awarded through a granting program.

In late July, the Tippecanoe County Commissioners by a vote of two to one failed to support a proposal for the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Cultural Task Force to invest a portion of local economic development income tax (EDIT) into local arts and cultural organizations' capital projects.

IAC Commissioner Jim Bodenmiller, a member of the chamber's task force, said he was pleased with the city council's support for the arts.

"The arts contribute to the economic development of our communities," Bodenmiller said. "Investing in securing this potential through local public funding will go a long way in assuring economic benefits and a quality of life that attracts new and retains existing business to our communities."

Indianapolis Museum of Art announces expansion plans

The Indianapolis Museum of Art recently announced a three-year plan to expand its existing facility.

The plans feature three new wings, 50 percent more gallery space, an outdoor garden court, expanded educational and family facilities, and other new amenities for visitors.

The \$74 million construction project will add 164,000 square feet to the museum and includes renovation of 90,000 square feet of existing space.